

What is claimed is:

1. A method for reducing the level of acrylamide in roasted cocoa beans, comprising reducing the level of asparagine in cocoa beans.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein reducing the level of acrylamide in the roasted cocoa beans comprises adding an asparagine-reducing enzyme to cocoa beans.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said asparagine-reducing enzyme is asparaginase.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein said asparagine-reducing enzyme is an enzyme capable of hydrolyzing the amide group of free asparagine.
5. A product comprising roasted cocoa beans, wherein the level of acrylamide in said product is reduced by at least about 10%.
6. The product of claim 5, wherein the level of acrylamide in said product is reduced by at least about 30%.
7. The product of claim 6, wherein the level of acrylamide in said product is reduced by at least about 50%.
8. The product of claim 7, wherein the level of acrylamide in said product is reduced by at least about 70%.
9. The product of claim 8, wherein the level of acrylamide in said product is reduced by at least about 90%.
10. The product of claim 5, wherein said product is cocoa powder.
11. The product of claim 5, wherein said product is chocolate candy.
12. The product of claim 5, wherein said product is a candy bar.
13. The product of claim 5, wherein said product is a cocoa beverage.
14. A dark cocoa powder comprising less than about 350 ppb acrylamide.
15. The powder of claim 14, comprising less than about 250 ppb acrylamide.
16. The powder of claim 15, comprising less than about 100 ppb acrylamide.
17. An article of commerce comprising:
  - (a) a product comprising roasted cocoa beans, wherein said roasted cocoa beans have a reduced level of acrylamide;
  - (b) a container for containing the product; and
  - (c) a message associated with the container.wherein said message associated with the container informs the consumer that the product has a reduced level of acrylamide.
18. The article of claim 17, wherein said message informs the consumer that the product is low in acrylamide.